

The American Issue



Impacting a Secular World in a Winning Way By Dr. William E Day

The morality and ethics of America are clearly at risk today. Abortion is rampant. Sex and violence proliferate in the media. States are drafting laws allowing for physician-assisted suicide. The push for gay rights is making deviant lifestyles more and more acceptable. Religious speech, specifically Christian, is being removed from our schools. One government agency even tried to remove it from the workplace. In the face of the ever-increasing secularization and spiritual decline of our culture what do we then do? In all of this the ACLU and the PC police are not our greatest enemies. Today the greatest danger to our culture is not overt persecution by the nation-at-large, rather it is the subtle seduction of our values. Compromise with the culture has always been a potential source for annihilating true moral stability than has intellectual skepticism or even the threat of being thrown to the lions.

America today has been lulled into an attractive, comfortable and emotional form of national slavery. The socially affluent, middle-class lifestyle has become for all of us so normative that we discern little conflict between it and the Christian lifestyle.

Over the past few decades, we have become acquainted with the allurements of power. In past days we looked at political involvement as something, at best, a necessary evil. We did little with the political process, and were convinced that those who use political power to effect social justice were in danger of being led away from our true purpose.

Today's evangelicals have moved beyond that naiveté and have come to see the wisdom of Edward Burke's famous dictum, "all that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing." Once we got rolling, we showed the old politicians that we weren't as dumb as they thought. In short we learned all the techniques of the pros. Our successes were amazing. Having tasted the intoxicating effects of political power. We have become addicted.

It is not easy to escape this subtle class-conscious conditioning of the gospel message. In reality, we never will be completely free from its hold. But we must attempt to break out of our culture's mindset and seek to discover a new ultimate impact we must make in our immediate social setting. We must find ways of transcending what class consciousness does to our thinking. We must seek to transform society rather than conform to its diluted formula of purpose and meaning.

Sociologist Peter Berger contends that it is through regularly reinforcing our commitments in a group such as ACAP that we, as individuals, can find strength to withstand the onslaught of cultural forces. Our survival as a counter-cultural resource depends on the renewal that comes from our unity and oneness. Let us be strong in our continued battle against societal seduction.

ACAP is the successor to the American Temperance League and the Anti-Saloon League established in 1895.

Membership is made up of state temperance organizations, national Christian denominations and other fraternal organizations that support ACAP's philosophy of abstinence

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Binge Drinking May Weaken Immune System, Study Suggests

MONDAY, Jan. 5, 2015 (HealthDay News) -- Young adults who engage in just one bout of binge drinking may experience a relatively quick and significant drop in their immune system function, a new small study indicates.

It's well-known that drinking ups injury risk, and this new study suggests that immune system impairment might also hamper recovery from those injuries.

"There's been plenty of research, mainly in animals, that has looked at what happens after alcohol has actually left the system, like the day after drinking," said study lead author Dr. Majid Afshar, an assistant professor in the departments of medicine and public health at Loyola University Health Systems in Maywood, Ill. "And it's been shown that if there is infection or injury, the body will be less well able to defend against it." The new research, which was conducted while Afshar was at the University of Maryland, found immune system disruption occurs while alcohol is still in the system.

This could mean that if you already have an infection, binge drinking might make it worse, he said. Or it might make you more susceptible to a new infection. "It's hard to say for sure, but our findings suggest both are certainly possible," Afshar added. The findings appear in the current online issue of **Alcohol**.

To read the rest of the article visit:

<http://health.usnews.com/health-news/articles/2015/01/05/binge-drinking-may-weaken-immune-system-study-suggests>

A majority of parents agree that it should be illegal to provide marijuana to underage children at home and over 80 percent of parents believe "marijuana advertising should still be banned."

**Drugfree Marijuana Survey*

Message from ACAP President, Ed Wolkin

I am really looking forward to the opportunity of serving ACAP as its president. I feel the organization has a tremendous amount of potential. Sadly we have shrunken in size over the last few years. I feel that there is a real need for organizations like ours, and every effort should be made for growth. I have become more and more aware of the many drug and alcohol organizations that are doing very good work throughout the country. What seems to be lacking is a way of linking them together so that new ideas might be shared, as well as funding opportunities for their work. With growth I feel an organization such as ours, with its strong history of providing that link in the past could rise to the occasion once more. We have made a good start with our new website, and restructured newsletter. We have proven that we can successfully transmit interesting information using these tools as well as e-mail. Our annual meeting has continuously proven to be an interesting source of information presented in a way that is easily understood and brought home to be used in the field.

I feel we have all the right tools, and I'm making it my mission to get the word out to as many organizations as I can locate. I have already started this in my state of Massachusetts. I will be doing research to find as many organizations as possible, and ask for your help. Please send me any and all listings of organizations in your area that you feel would benefit in becoming a part of our organization. I promise that I will follow up with each organization by sending them a packet explaining who we are, an example of our newsletter, and the link to our webpage. I will also follow-up with a phone call to see if I can be of any further assistance. I am also planning on contacting any groups that were previously active with us, and trying to reestablish a connection.

It is not difficult to see that addiction has become one of the greatest problems facing our country in many years. The sad part is that we are not only harming adults, but also losing many of our finest prospects of future greatness from our youth.

I also feel that it is important that we emphasize that the group, although still very interested in the battle of alcohol addiction, is also very much involved in helping to battle all other major addictions.

Please get back to me as soon as possible with any suggestions that might help our organization grow and continue to be a force against addiction. I can be reached by e-mail at ewolkin@verizon.net or by phone at (978) 821-2137.



How to Talk With Your Teen About Marijuana

www.drugfree.org/ November 4, 2014

<http://www.drugfree.org/join-together/colorado-steps-up-education-and-enforcement-of-drugged-driving>

Marijuana, legal or otherwise, is a hot topic, so it is more important than ever for parents to protect their kids' health and development by addressing this issue early and often.

Why Talking About Marijuana Matters

The new marijuana landscape doesn't change the fact that all substances — including marijuana — are harmful for the still-developing teen brain. Your teen's brain is not fully developed until he is in his mid-20s. During the adolescent years, your teen is especially susceptible to the negative effects of any and all drug use. Marijuana use directly affects the parts of the brain responsible for memory, learning and attention. Scientific evidence shows that marijuana use during the teen years can permanently lower a person's IQ and interfere with other aspects of functioning and well-being.

Not only is the mentality around marijuana changing, but the dialogue used to talk with your teen about drugs is as well. Research shows that lecturing, tough love, using scare tactics and one-way conversations are highly ineffective in getting your points and concerns heard by teenagers. So what should this new drug talk look like? It involves open and positive communication, active listening, open-ended questions, objectivity, empathy and specific language that avoids polarizing words such as disapprove, bad, stupid and disappoint. Many parents fear that if they don't use these old tactics their teen won't be fully aware of the harm it can cause and that it isn't that big of a deal to you. None of these fears are true. The tools that we will provide you with in this guide will actually give you more insight into your teen's life and the way they think about marijuana, as well as allow you to address your concerns about marijuana use in the most effective way. Kids who learn a lot about the risks of drugs at home are significantly less likely to use.

To obtain a copy of "How to talk to Your Teen About Marijuana" enter the following link in your web browser: <http://www.drugfree.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/How-to-Talk-To-Your-Teen-About-Marijuana-Fall-2014.pdf>



Visit the ACAP Website to stay up-to-date on current issues regarding alcohol and marijuana

www.sapacap.com.

STAFF:

William E. Day
Executive Director

Cheryl Corley
Administrative Assistant

OFFICERS:

President: Ed Wolkin
(Foundation for Alcohol Education, Massachusetts)

President-Elect:
Rob Chambers
(Christian Action Commission, Mississippi)

Secretary/Treasurer:
Anita Bedell
(Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems)

WHO WE ARE:

American Council on Alcohol Problems is the channel of cooperation through which state temperance organizations, national religious bodies and similar concerned groups in America can unite to deal with the problems caused by alcohol and other drugs.

Visit the ACAP Website at www.sapacap.com

American Council on Alcohol Problems

2376 Lakeside Drive
Birmingham, AL 35244
205.989.8177
ccorley@alcap.com

Find us on the Web:
www.sapacap.com



Energy Drinks Plus Alcohol May Encourage Drunk Driving

Agata Blaszczyk-Boxe

December 16, 2014

www.livescience.com

People who mix energy drinks with alcohol may be more likely to drive drunk than those who consume only alcohol, according to a new study.

In the study, researchers surveyed 355 college students, including 281 who said they drank alcohol within the last month. Of those who drank, 107 reported drinking alcohol and energy drinks together.

Among those who consumed both alcohol and energy drinks — so-called "combined users" — 57 percent said they had driven when they knew they were too drunk to drive. Of those who drank only alcohol, 44 percent of those who said they had driven while drunk.

To read the rest of the article visit the following website:
<http://www.livescience.com/49146-energy-drinks-alcohol-drunk-driving.html/>

Why Congress Gave In to Medical Marijuana

By Russell Berman

The Atlantic / December 17, 2014

The \$1 trillion spending bill that passed last week included a provision that blocks the Justice Department from spending any money to enforce a federal ban on growing or selling marijuana in the 23 states that have moved to legalize it for medical use. It marks a huge shift for Congress, which for years had sided with federal prosecutors in their battle with states over the liberalization of drug laws. "The war on medical marijuana is over," Bill Piper, a lobbyist with the Drug Policy Alliance, declared to *The Los Angeles Times*.

Another leading advocate of legalization, Allen St. Pierre of NORML, was pleased but not quite so jubilant. After all, under President Obama, the Justice Department in the last five years has sharply curtailed its raids on pot growers and sellers. But directives from Washington, he said, had not stopped overzealous prosecutors and DEA agents in parts of California from targeting the largest marijuana dispensaries. Will they follow Congress but not the president? "They will decide whether this comes to be," St. Pierre said by phone, in reference to the prosecutors and the DEA.

More broadly, the fact that the policy change made it through a Republican-controlled House is indicative of how the fight over drug laws has shifted from a debate over the medical benefits for people suffering from cancer and other diseases to the question of total legalization. Just last month, voters in Alaska and Oregon, as well as D.C., approved measures allowing for the recreational use of marijuana. Congress wasn't ready to go that far, moving to block D.C.'s recreational law, but party leaders signed off on allowing pot for medical uses.

Read the rest of the article at: <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2014/12/why-congress-gave-in-to-medical-marijuana/383856/>